

Teaching Strategies GOLD®
Frequently Asked Questions – Updated July 30, 2012

This information is for ECEAP Contractors who plan to use *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* Online for your ECEAP child assessment, under the DEL license in 2012-13.

Q: When will DEL offer training?

A: DEL plans to offer three trainings in September 2012. Based on requests, DEL will offer additional training in April through September 2013.

Q: If I attended a WaKIDS *GOLD®* training last year, should I attend ECEAP *GOLD®* training?

A: Yes, if possible. The ECEAP training has been specially designed for ECEAP and is delivered by professional *GOLD®* trainers. The WaKIDS training focused on WaKIDS objectives.

Q: Is DEL providing any materials for teachers attending the training?

A: DEL will provide the *GOLD® Objectives for Development and Learning* books and posters to teachers that do not already have them.

Q: How do I set up or renew my subscription with Teaching Strategies, LLC?

A: Contact Customer Relations at 1-800-637-3652, ext. 4. Let them know that you are an ECEAP Contractor and need to be placed under the DEL ECEAP Agency license.

Q: Can my program be licensed under both WSA and DEL since WSA uses the data for statewide initiatives?

A: Yes, your Head Start program could be under the WSA license and your ECEAP could be under the DEL agency license. The DEL rate of \$9.95 per child portfolio is only available under the DEL license. DEL will share aggregated reports, without individual child data, with WSA for combined Head Start and ECEAP reporting.

Q: How do I pay for additional *GOLD®* Online child portfolios for non-ECEAP children?

A: Contact Customer Relations at 1-800-637-3652, ext. 4. Let them know you need to add child portfolios to your subscription agreement. They will allow the DEL rate of \$9.95 per slot.

Q: Will DEL pay for additional ECEAP slots above my funded enrollment level, like with DECA?

A: No, this is not necessary with *GOLD®* Online, because when a child exits, their record can be archived. That frees up an active online portfolio for another child.

Q: How do I clarify which children are ECEAP children?

A: When entering demographic data for any ECEAP children, mark ECEAP as the “funding source.” This allows DEL to pull ECEAP-specific reports. It is important since many classrooms combine funding sources.

Q: When do teachers rate the children?

A: Teachers compile child observations throughout the school year, and finalize their ratings for each child three times a year: November 30, March 1, and June 15. It is important that teachers “finalize” the ratings after completing the progress checkpoint for each child. When levels have been entered for every child, click Finalize This Checkpoint.

Q: Which *GOLD*® objectives must teachers rate?

A: Teachers will rate all objectives within the following areas of *GOLD*®: Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Mathematics. Contractors may choose to assess children’s social emotional development with *GOLD*® or DECA. The remaining areas of development and learning are optional for 2012-13. Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, ECEAP contractors will assess children’s social-emotional development with *GOLD*®. This increases the alignment with WaKIDS and will allow us to show state-wide, multi-age social-emotional results.

Q: Are teachers required to use the Home Language Survey and Objectives 37 and 38?

A: Teachers will complete the Home Language Survey on all children, and assess the child’s English language acquisition, using Objectives 37 and 38, if indicated. ECEAP teachers are encouraged, but not required, to assess Spanish speaking children with the Spanish language and literacy objectives. Think about incorporating the Home Language Survey into your intake process or first home visit with a family. This survey helps ECEAP teachers and family support specialists meet ECEAP Performance Standards.

Q: How much documentation do I need to rate an objective?

A: Please see page xix in the *Objectives for Development and Learning* book: “For some objectives, seeing a child perform a skill once is sufficient to make an informed decision. Other objectives need more evidence and documentation. There is no set number of observations or amount of documentation that must be collected in relation to each objective.”

Q: Are teachers required to enter documentation online?

A: Teachers are required to observe and assess children on an ongoing basis. DEL strongly encourages teachers to enter documentation in *GOLD*® Online, but they may keep their documentation in paper files this year.

Q: Does *GOLD*® Online have spell check?

A: *GOLD*® Online has spell and grammar check in many text boxes, including the Documentation tab.

Q: Are teachers required to complete the Interrater reliability certification?

A: Yes. Lead teachers have six months after the date of the training to attain interrater reliability certification, or six months from the beginning of the school year if they were trained before September 2012. This strengthens the accuracy of the statewide ECEAP data. There is no cost for the online interrater reliability test and you may take it as many times as necessary during the six month timeframe. Interrater reliability is available in English and Spanish. Your *GOLD*® administrator will assign permission to access the interrater reliability test online.

Q: Are education coordinators required to complete the interrater reliability certification?

A: Education Coordinators are not required, but are encouraged to complete the interrater reliability certification. Completing this process allows education coordinators to fully support their teaching staff who are implementing *GOLD*®.

Q: Are the *GOLD*® content areas of Social Studies, Science and Technology, and The Arts part of the interrater reliability certification?

A: No, the content areas are not part of the interrater reliability certification. *GOLD*® does not have an age progression for these content areas, and it is optional for ECEAP teachers to rate them.

Q: Which interrater reliability certification should I complete?

A: ECEAP Contractors should have teachers complete the interrater reliability certification that most closely reflects the children they are serving. The following types of interrater reliability certification are available:

- Preschool
- Preschool, including children with disabilities
- Preschool, including children who are dual language learners
- Preschool, including children with disabilities and children who are dual language learners

Q: What happens if a lead teacher is unable to pass the reliability certification process?

A: Teachers can test, practice, and retest multiple times. DEL will ask that the teacher continue to practice their skills, and work with their education coordinator or obtain further professional development with *GOLD*® online.

Q: Is there a family component to *GOLD*® Online?

A: Contractors may choose to give parents access to the *GOLD* family website. This site allows families to enter and view documentation for their child. At this time, parents are not able to assign a rating.

Q: Are ECEAP staff required to use the family components of *GOLD*®, such as inviting families to participate, newsletters, etc.?

A: These are optional resources for ECEAP programs. However, the Family Conference Form is a great way for teachers to share assessment information with families and engage in collaborative goal setting.

Q: How many *GOLD*® child portfolios can I archive without having to pay a fee?

A: You have unlimited free archiving through the DEL license.

Q: What should teachers do if children leave the program?

A: Do **not** delete children's records when they leave the program. Instead, "archive" the records so they can be accessed later for reporting purposes.

Q: Who can archive a child?

A: *GOLD*® Administrators can archive children. Teachers cannot.

Q: Who can delete a child?

A: *GOLD*® Administrators and teachers can delete children. They can be un-deleted within 90 days.

Q: When should I delete a child?

A: You should only delete a child if they were entered into *GOLD*® Online and never attended class.

Q: How do I transfer a child?

A: ECEAP Contractors' *GOLD*® Administrators can transfer children between their own sites and classrooms. Teachers cannot. DEL Administrators can transfer children to another ECEAP Contractor. For children who transfer to another program under a different (non-DEL) license, Teaching Strategies, LLC, must complete the transfer.

Q: Can I transfer a child's electronic *GOLD*® portfolio to their kindergarten teacher?

A: Not at this time. ECEAP contractors can give the family a paper copy of the child's assessment information to share with the kindergarten teacher. DEL and OSPI will work with Teaching Strategies, LLC to streamline electronic data transfers.

Q: I am already using *GOLD*®. Can I access archived children once my subscription moves to the DEL agency license?

A: Yes, *GOLD*® will look seamless to the user.

Q: My program currently has a bridge between ChildPlus and *GOLD*®? Can I still do that with the DEL agency license?

A: Contractors that have a ChildPlus bridge can continue under the DEL license. Contractors need to contact ChildPlus directly to discuss that agreement and pay related fees.

Q: Am I required to sign something to share my data with DEL?

A: DEL will have access to all data if your *GOLD*® subscription is under the DEL agency license. The FERPA law allows direct transfer of information between education agencies, so there is not a need for a signed release. Please check with your other funding sources, such as Head Start and your agency, to determine any confidentiality policies they require

Questions: Ask your ECEAP Specialist, call 360-725-4567 or email eceap@del.wa.gov.